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**Students' Investigation of a View Tube** by Samuel Obara

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**Abstract:**

Using multiple representations and technology, students explore the relationship between tube attribute and field of vision.

Given a view tube

How wide is your field of vision when you look through a tube, such as a paper towel tube or a toilet roll tube?

Consider the following variables: The length of the tube, the diameter of the tube, and your distance from your eye to the wall.

1. **Vary the length of the tube:** Investigate the relationship between the length of the view tube ( $x$ ) and the viewable vertical distance on the wall ( $y$ ) while maintaining a perpendicular line from the eye to the wall and keeping the diameter of the view tube constant. Use view tubes of different lengths for comparison.

Begin by predicting a mathematical relationship between the length of the tube and the width of your field of vision:

2. **Vary the distance to the wall:** Investigate the relationship between the perpendicular distance from the eye to the wall ( $x$ ) and the viewable vertical distance on the wall ( $y$ ) using a view tube of constant length and diameter.

Begin by predicting a mathematical relationship between the distance to the wall and the width of your field of vision:

3. **Vary the diameter of the tube:** Investigate the relationship between the diameter of the view tube ( $x$ ) of constant lengths and the viewable vertical distance on the wall ( $y$ ) while keeping the perpendicular distance from the eye to the wall constant. Use view tubes of different diameters for comparison.

Begin by predicting a mathematical relationship between the diameter of the tube and the width of your field of vision:

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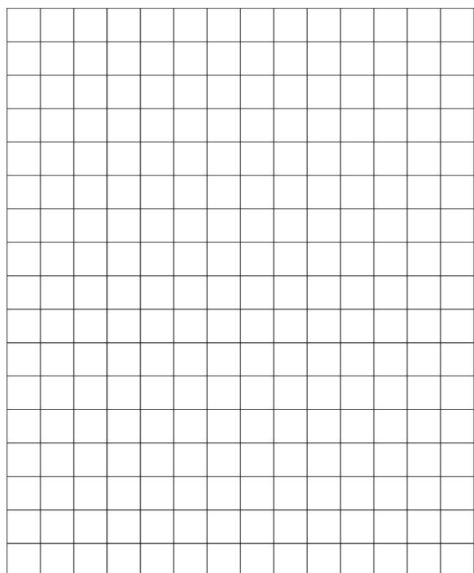
1. Data Collection:

Distance eye to the wall: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Diameter of the tube: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

| Length of the tube<br>(cm) | Vertical viewing<br>distance (cm) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                            |                                   |
|                            |                                   |
|                            |                                   |
|                            |                                   |
|                            |                                   |
|                            |                                   |
|                            |                                   |
|                            |                                   |

Generate a graph:



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## 2. Data Collection:

Length of tube: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Diameter of the tube: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

| Distance of eye to wall (cm) | Vertical viewing distance (cm) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                              |                                |
|                              |                                |
|                              |                                |
|                              |                                |
|                              |                                |
|                              |                                |
|                              |                                |
|                              |                                |

Generate a graph:



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### 3. Data Collection:

Distance eye to the wall: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Length of the tube: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

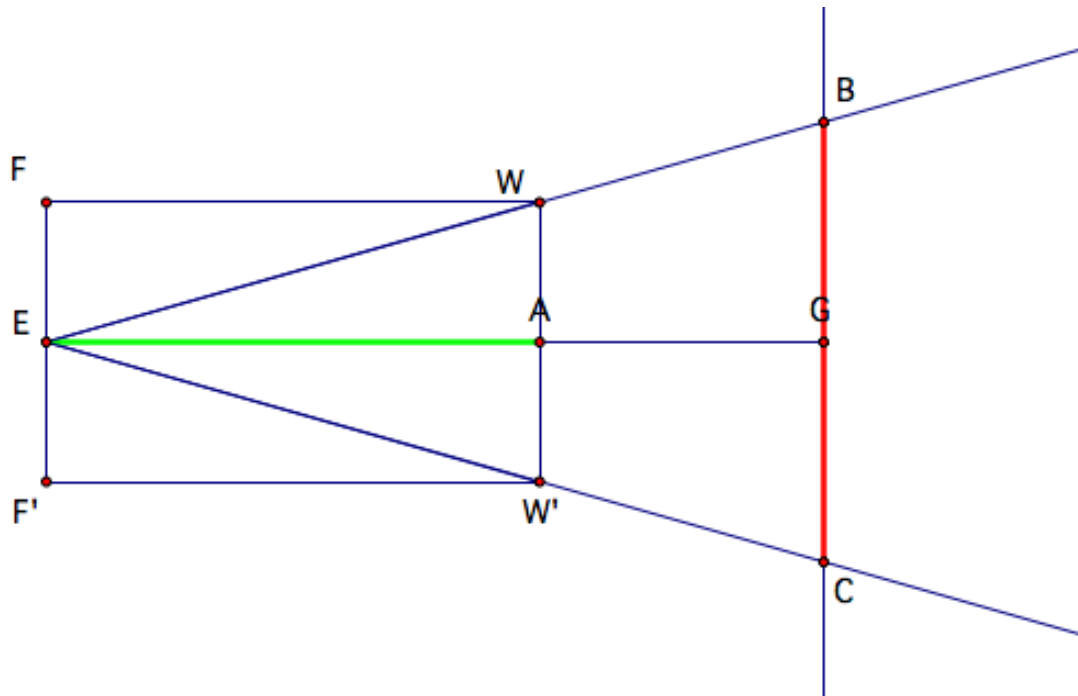
| Diameter of the tube (cm) | Vertical viewing distance (cm) |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                           |                                |
|                           |                                |
|                           |                                |
|                           |                                |
|                           |                                |
|                           |                                |
|                           |                                |

Generate a graph:



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Construct a mathematical model that describes the relationship between the length,  $x$ , of the tube (EA) and the vertical viewing distance,  $y$  (BC) for a tube with diameter  $WW'$ , and the eye distance from the eye to the wall EG.



For a deep discussion of the related model see the article by the author linked on the course wikipage.